

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A dental instrument for measuring deposits on teeth along the gingival surface of a tooth comprising:
an elongated portion defined along a longitudinal axis of the instrument; and at least one a first curved portion on anyone end of said elongated portion and having a first radii of curvature; and
a second the curved portion on the opposite end of said elongated portion and having a second radii of curvature that differs from said first radii of curvature; the general curvature of at least one of posterior teeth and anterior teeth;
wherein at least one of said first and second curved portions is marked with measured segments that follow the radii of curvature of the curved portions so that the deposit measured along the gingival surface of the tooth is determined by counting the measured segments.
2. (currently amended) A dental instrument as in claim 1 wherein said general first radii of curvature is that of posterior teeth.
3. (currently amended) A dental instrument as in claim 1 wherein said general second radii of curvature is that of anterior teeth.
4. (currently amended) A dental instrument as in claim 1 wherein said elongated portion has a-at least one curved portion on each end extends tangentially from the elongated portion such that each curved portion does not intersect said longitudinal axis.
5. (currently amended) A dental instrument as in claim 4 wherein the each curved portion in one end has the general curvature of posterior teeth and the general curvature on another end has the general curvature of anterior teeth extends tangentially from the elongated portion such that each curved portion does not intersect said longitudinal axis.
6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A dental instrument as in ~~claim 6~~ claim 1 wherein each of the general curvature curved portions is marked with measured segments.
8. (currently amended) A dental instrument as in claim 1 wherein said general curvature first curved portion is marked with measured segments.
9. (currently amended) A dental instrument as in ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 wherein said general curvature second curved portion is marked with measured segments.
10. (canceled)
11. (original) A method of measuring a deposit on a tooth comprising:
 - (a) treating the tooth so that the deposit can be visualized;
 - (b) contacting the tooth with a curvature portion of a dental instrument having an elongated portion and a curvature portion, the curvature portion having the general curvature of the tooth undergoing measurement and being marked with measured segments; and
 - (c) reading the number of measured segments that coincide with the deposit.
12. (original) A method as in claim 11 wherein said tooth is treated with a solution and absorbs a dye from said solution.
13. (original) A method as in claim 11 wherein said dental instrument has an elongated portion with a general curvature portion on at least one end.
14. (original) A method as in claim 13 wherein said dental instrument has a general curvature portion at one end and another end.
15. (original) A method as in claim 14 wherein each general curvature portion has marked segments.

16. (original) A method as in claim 11 wherein said general curvature portion has measured segments.

17. (new) A dental instrument for measuring deposits along the gingival surface of a tooth comprising:

an elongated portion defined along a longitudinal axis of the instrument;

a first curved portion on one end of said elongated portion and a second curved portion on the opposite end of said elongated portion;

at least one of said first and second curved portions is marked with measured segments so that the deposit measured along the gingival surface of the tooth is determined by counting the measured segments; and

wherein each curved portion extends from the elongated portion and does not intersect said longitudinal axis or point in a direction that intersects said longitudinal axis.

18. (new) A dental instrument in accordance with claim 17, further comprising measured segments on the first and second curved portions.

19. (new) A dental instrument in accordance with claim 18, wherein the first and second curved portions have different radii of curvature.

20. (new) A dental instrument in accordance with claim 19, wherein the measured segments are curved and follow the radii of curvature of each of the curved portions.